



News from White Haven

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, dedicated to Civil War General and 18th President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia Dent Grant, is located in south St. Louis County, Missouri.

News from White Haven is a quarterly publication of Ulysses S. Grant NHS. It is also available online by visiting www.nps.gov/ulsg/.

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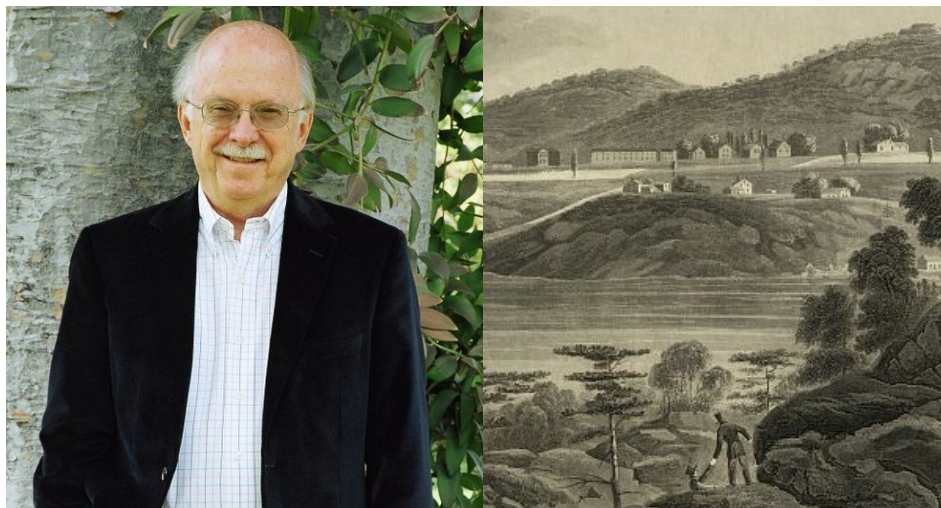
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Change of address? Going green?

Let us know about any updates to your contact information by e-mailing ulsg_interpretation@nps.gov or calling 314-842-1867.

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Exploring Sam Grant at West Point



Ronald C. White Jr. will speak at Ulysses S. Grant NHS on October 6, 2012, about Grant's time at West Point, shown here in the early 1820s.

Ronald C. White Jr. will be the speaker at the 4th Annual Ulysses S. Grant Lecture and John Y. Simon Day on Saturday, October 6, 2012. White is currently working on a new biography of Grant that will be published by Random House in 2014.

Dr. White's lecture will provide a sneak peek of his analysis of Ulysses S. Grant during his West Point years—when Grant's name changed from Hiram Ulysses to Ulysses S., and he was nicknamed Sam.

Dr. White is the author of A Lincoln: A Biography, a New York Times bestseller. USA Today said, "If you read one book about Lincoln, make it A.LINCOLN." A. Lincoln

received a Christopher Award honoring authors "whose work affirms the highest values of the human spirit." White earned his Ph.D. in Religion and History from Princeton University. He is a Fellow at the Huntington Library and a Visiting Professor of History at UCLA.

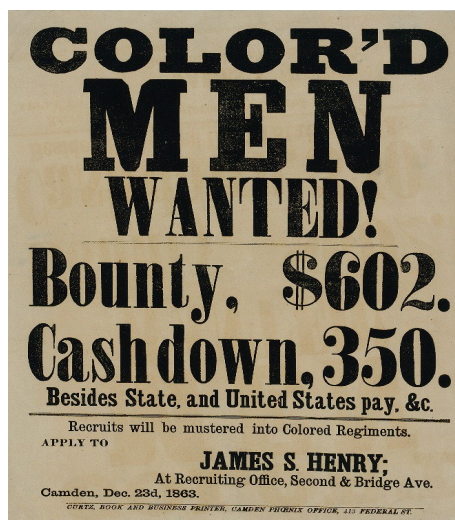
The lecture will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site at 7400 Grant Road. A book signing will follow. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the site at 314/842-1867, x230. There is a \$10 advance reservation fee that will be honored for \$10 toward a minimum \$10 purchase in the U.S. Grant NHS sales area on the day of the event only.

General Grant and the Emancipation Proclamation

On September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation stating that on January 1, 1863, "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

This action officially expanded the war aims of the federal government as a war against slavery in addition to preservation of the Union. Many military leaders, including General Ulysses S. Grant, responded favorably to Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, recognizing that this political policy could result in military strategy to end the war sooner. The freedmen could now serve in the army, increasing federal troops and reducing the number of individuals forced to labor in support of the Confederacy and its army.

From the beginning of the war, enslaved African Americans sought protection from masters by fleeing to Union lines. Under federal law, these



Following the Emancipation Proclamation, posters like the one above recruited African Americans for what were known as colored regiments of the U.S. Army.

men, women, and children were to be returned when their owners came to reclaim them. However, General Butler, followed by other Union officers, argued that these enslaved people, who were considered "property," were being used to support the enemy, and therefore could be seized as contraband of war. Each commander had to then decide how to feed, clothe, and care for these individuals, who were eager to start new lives in freedom.

In November 1862, Grant

appointed Chaplain John Eaton to take charge of the "contrabands" in his area. Recognizing that the Emancipation Proclamation would become effective with the New Year, Grant began to implement his plan to support the president and aid those individuals making the transition from slavery to freedom. Grant explained to Eaton, "The Negroes could perform many of the camp duties now in the hands of the soldiers, serving as fatigue men in the departments of the surgeon-general, the quartermaster, and the commissary, as well as rendering assistance in various engineering operations, such as building bridges, roads, earthworks, and so on. The women could serve in the camp kitchens and as nurses in the hospitals." He then went on to say: "When it had been made clear that the Negro, as an independent laborer... could do these things well, it would be very easy to put a musket in his hands and make a soldier of him, and if he fought well, eventually to put the ballot in his hand and make him a citizen."

John Eaton, General Superintendent of Contrabands

John Eaton was a chaplain for the 27th Ohio before General Ulysses S. Grant made him General Superintendent of Contrabands. Eaton later said he had no idea how Grant got his name to take on this important role.

In General Orders No. 13, issued in November 1862, General John Rawlins defined Eaton's new tasks: "It will be the duty of the Superintendent of Contrabands to organize them into working parties in saving cotton, as pioneers on

railroads and steamboats, and in any way their service can be made available. ... In no case will negroes be forced into voluntary service of the Government, or be enticed away from their homes except when it is a military necessity."

Spotlight on the Park: Audio Accessibility

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 36 million Americans have some degree of hearing loss. In an effort to provide a richer experience for these individuals, Ulysses S. Grant NHS recently added assistive listening equipment to the visitor center theater and to its interpretive programs.



Park Guide David Newmann and park volunteer David Herries experiment with the new assistive listening transmitters.

An audio induction loop was installed in the theater. This allows visitors with telecoil (T-coil) enabled hearing aids to listen to the movie or special presentations directly through their hearing aids.

The park staff and volunteers doing programs will also be able to use assistive listening transmitters. Visitors may use a small receiver with an ear piece and hear the interpreter's presentation clearly wherever they are. Visitors with T-coil enabled hearing aids can use a receiver with a transmitter designed to work with their hearing aids. If you would like more information on park accessibility programs, please call 314-842-1867.

Letters to the Front—Then and Now



DEAR SOLDIER,
GOD BLESS YOU AND GIVE
YOU A SAFE RETURN HOME.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.
FROM A VIETNAM COMBAT VETERAN.

Park volunteer Anne Williams portrays Civil War nurse Emily Parsons during a program about letters to and from the battlefield. Visitors were encouraged to write to troops in Afghanistan as part of the program.

On August 3 and 4, over 150 people attended a special evening program at Ulysses S. Grant NHS about the Civil War soldiers' experience. As a part of this evening, costumed interpreters read letters from a Civil War soldier and nurse, then visitors had the opportunity to write to members of the Missouri National Guard in Afghanistan. The Agribusiness Development Team VI, under the leadership of Captain Stephen Toft, is helping Afghan farmers develop sustainable farms. They also train to protect themselves if

necessary. Twenty-eight members of the 55-member team were recently awarded medals for successfully repelling an attack in April.

We sent the letters to the team along with pictures of the event and a copy of Grant's memoirs for the team's library. We appreciate our visitors taking the time to write a note of support to our men and women in uniform, and even more, we appreciate the dedication and sacrifice of the members of the Agribusiness Development Team VI and all of our armed forces.

Kids' Corner: The Holidays are Coming!

Although for many kids, school is just starting and winter holidays seem a long way off, here at Ulysses S. Grant NHS we are already making plans for our Holidays at White Haven program. Plan to attend our holiday program on Saturday, December 15. We'll have holiday music, 19th century arts and crafts for kids and adults, and readings of classic holiday stories. Watch our website (www.nps.gov/ulsg) and our Facebook page



for more information and for a special holiday craft you can make ahead of time and bring to the park with you on the day of the event. Call 314-842-1867 x230 for reservations after December 1.



Ulysses S. Grant NHS
7400 Grant Road
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(314) 842-1867

Upcoming Events

- September 22: Girl Scouts' BIG Day at Soldiers' Memorial with a parade, exhibits, and a concert.
- October 6: Annual Ulysses S. Grant Lecture and John Y. Simon Day with featured guest speaker Ronald C. White, author of A. Lincoln: A Biography and an upcoming biography of Ulysses S. Grant.
- November 22: Ulysses S. Grant NHS will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day.
- December 4: Dr. Amy Greenberg will discuss her new book, A Wicked War, which explores the Mexican War and its impact on the careers of Henry Clay and Abraham Lincoln.
- December 15: Holidays at White Haven program for visitors of all ages. Call 314-842-1867 x230 after December 1 for reservations.
- December 25: Ulysses S. Grant NHS will be closed in observance of Christmas Day.
- January 1: Ulysses S. Grant NHS will be closed in observance of New Year's Day.
- January 12: Scott Berg, professor at George Mason University, will discuss his latest book 38 Nooses: Lincoln, Little Crow and the Beginning of the Frontier's End. Berg explores the Dakota War through the personalities involved, including notable Dakota leader Little Crow.

Did you know?

During the Civil War, General Grant often wrote letters to his wife Julia from the battlefield. Recalling them years later, Julia Dent Grant said the letters always contained words of comfort

and of his abiding faith in victory, and always expressed concern for his soldiers.

Local author/historian NiNi Harris drew heavily from these letters when writing the radio-

style play, "My Dear Julia," which recounts the Grants' long romance. The Old Courthouse Players will present the play at the Old Courthouse on November 11 at 1 p.m.